Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4745

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

CONFIDENTIAL ATHENS 5351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: SOME SIGNIFICANT TRANSFERS WITHIN MILITARY

AND POLICE RANKS

1. WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS A NUMBER OF TRANSFERS ARE BEING EFFECTED OF OFFICERS WITHIN BOTH THE MILITARY AND POLICE SERVICES. IN EACH CASE, THE INDIVIDUAL AFFECTED HAS BEEN CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED CLOSELY EITHER

WITH THE IOANNIDES OR PAPADOPOULOS CIRCLES.

2. WITHIN THE MILITARY, THE FOLLOWING TANSFERS

ARE TAKING PLACE:

A. COMMANDER GEORGOS NIKOLOPOULOS (HN) WAS REPLACED AS DIRECTOR OF THE SECOND STAFF OFFICE OF THE

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HELLENIC NAVY STAFF AND HAS BEEN TRANFERRED TO

PATRAS WHERE HE WILL SERVE AS SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER, IOANIAN SEA COMMAND. NIKOLOPOULOS WAS REPORTEDLY AMONG THE DOZEN OR SO OFFICERS VERY CLOSE TO BRIG. GENERAL IOANNIDES (CHIEF OF ESA). SEE DEFATT 011100Z AUG 74 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

B. MAJOR ANASTASSIOS SPANOS HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT OF ESA TO THE 37TH INFANTRY REGIMENT NEAR THE GREEK-BULGARIAN BORDER. SPANOS HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF BRIG. GENERAL IOANNIDES. THE REPORT OF SPANOS' TRANSFER WAS PUBLISHED IN MOST ATHENS NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 1 AND AUGUST 2. THE NEWS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT "IN VIEW OF THE NARROWING OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF ESA, THE SUPER-NUMERARY OFFICERS OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SECTION WILL BE TRANSFERRED INTO OTHER UNITS".

3. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWS AUGUST 2
REPORTED THAT ATHENS POLICE DIRECTOR, VASILLIOU
LAMBROU WILL BE REPLACED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IT WAS
ALSO REPORTED THAT TWO OF HIS DEPUTIES, EVANGELOS
MALIOS AND PETROS BABALIS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM
THEIR POSTS. GREEK-LANGUAGE PAPERS HAVE NOT YET
CARRIED THESE REPORTS. ALL THREE INDIVIDUALS HAVE
AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH
MILITARY SECURITY ELEMENTS DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

4. FINALLY, IT WAS REPORTED ON AUGUST 1 THAT THE CHIEF OF THE ATHENS GENERAL SECURITY DIRECTORATE GEORGOS KAROUZOS HAS BEEN REPLACED BY CONSTANTINE YANNIMARAS. KAROUZOS HAD ALSO WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE PRIOR MILITARY REGIME.

5. COMMENT: THE ABOVE TRANSFERS PROBABLY REPRESENT ONLY THE FIRST STEPS OF THE ARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT TO WEED OUT FROM POSITIONS OF POWER IN THE SECURITY SERVICES INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED CLOSELY IN ONE ASPECT OR ANOTHER -- WITH THE TWO PREDECESSOR MILITARY REGIMES.

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TAGS: PINS, GR, (NIKOLOPOULOS, GEORGOS), (SPANOS, ANASTASSIOS), (LAMBROU, VASILLIOU), (KAROUZOS, GEORGOS), (YANNIMARAS, CONSTANTINE)
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